

## Interview with Sam Million

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Interview # 1: October 28, 2009

Interviewer: Mark DePue

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Million: Well, I had an incident where after the first month, we received some prisoners from the Philippines, and they were the Japanese imperial marines. And to be a Japanese imperial marine, you had to be at least six feet tall, which was unusual for Japanese. These sixty men that they brought in from the Philippines thought they were all going to be bunched together and had this idea that they were going to give the jailer or the guards a hard time. Well, that was taken care of the minute they walked into the cell blocks. They split these guys up through six cell blocks in three tiers each, that there wasn't more than maybe one or two men, or three or four, but they were so scattered in the cell blocks and at the different levels they never ever saw one another. So therefore there was no trouble with the imperial marines who were going to come in and give us, the jailers, a hard time.

Well, I had one in cell block six, and he told me from the very beginning, he says, "Jailer-san"—and he could speak English pretty well. He says, "I am a Japanese imperial marine, therefore," he says, "when you pass out cigarettes to the men"—twice a week, which was Tuesdays and Thursdays—he says, "I want more cigarettes than the other men get because I am an imperial marine." And I says, "Okay, we'll see about this. I'll give you my answer later." So with this, I went to one of the cells where there was a general, and through the interpreter, I had him explain to the general that we have a Japanese imperial marine here who is demanding more cigarettes than you are going to get as a general. Everybody was given five cigarettes, period, no exceptions. And I says, "This man wants more cigarettes than you're going to get." So I says, "I want you to take care of this." So with this, I put the interpreter back in his cell, got the general, walked him around to where the other cell was that had the marine, opened the door. The general walked into the cell. All four men got up and bowed and saluted him, and he went to the marine and

proceeded to talk to him in this guttural talk that the Japanese used to use in talking to their troops or whoever. Walked up to him, give him this little speech that he'd given, that I know that the marine didn't like, and he proceeded to take this guy and slap him across the face back and forth five times with enough force that it should have put an ordinary man down on his knees. But the marine stood there, and he took it, but it was hurting him. After the general was done, he spoke to him again in his guttural voice that he had, the marine saluted him, he bowed to him. I took the general out of the cell, locked the cell, took him back to his cell, and the general told me in broken English, he says, "This man will not give you any trouble." I says, "I didn't think there was any trouble to begin with." So then as I passed the cigarettes out that particular day—I had to give them to them through these windows that they had, and they could reach out and get them—was just enough that they could get their hand out. Give them each their cigarettes, and he said, "Jailer-san," he says, "I want to thank you." He says, "I want you to know that five cigarettes," he says, "is very good." And he says, "I will give you no trouble." And I told him, I says, "Well, I didn't think we had any trouble to begin with." So with this, he smiled, and that was the end.